(b) Government of India is opposed to multilateral talks as proposed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan in the statement referred to in the news item. Such multilateral talks have been proposed in the past as well. The proposal involves issues which are either bilateral—and so should be addressed bilaterally under the Simla Agreement—or are not confined to a particular region or amenable to a regional solution—and so ought to be approached from much wider perspective.

The statement of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, which was part of her anti-India tirade in the US, contravenes the spirit of the Simla Agreement and further vitiates the atmosphere for bilateral relations.

(c) In interactions with the US and other government's India's position on these and other issues raised by Pakistani Prime Minister during her visit to the U.S. and Government's commitment to the bilateral approach enshrined in the Simla Agreement, will continue to be reiterated.

Reorientation of Nuclear Policy

7961. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

SHRI JANARDAN YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan is building another Nuclear facility, capable of processing weapons grade plutonium; if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(b) which are the countries reported to be transferring the nuclear technology to Pakistan and which of them are signatories to NPT; and

(c) whether Government have reoriented its nuclear policy in view of the increasing threat from Pakistan's nuclear potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is aware that Pakistan is constructing, with assistance from China, a 40 MW research reactor at Khustiab which will enable Pakistan to have access to weapons grade plutonium. It has been reported that China is assisting Pakistan in this project. Government is also aware of Pakistan's clandestine weapons oriented nuclear programme. In pursuing this programme, Pakistan has acquired equipment and technology from US and a large number of west European countries which are states parties to the NPT.

(c) India has an extensive nuclear programme which is exclusively geared towards peaceful purposes. However, the security situation of India remains constantly under review, particularly in the light of developments in the neighbourhood and Government will take all measures necessary to cope with any threat that may be posed to the security of the nation.

Offer of Iranian President to Mediate in Kashmir Dispute

7962. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the press conference held on the 19th April, 1995 the visiting Iranian President had stated that Iran was unhappy and unsatisfied over the situation in Kashmir and had offered to mediate to resolve the Kashmir dispute etc:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?